

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Setting up of STZ in Southern Tamil Nadu

856. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Special Tourism Zone in Southern Tamil Nadu connecting Madurai-Rameshwaram-Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism has no scheme for setting up a Special Tourism Zone. However, the Ministry has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 10345.34 lakh during the Tenth Five Year Plan (till December, 2006) for Tamil Nadu, out of which the following have been sanctioned for Madurai, Rameshwaram and Kanyakumari:

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Destination development of Madurai	2006-07	478.00
2.	Development of Rameshwaram under Vivekananda Travel Circuit	2003-04	168.24
3.	Development of Rameshwaram under destination development	2005-06	426.42
4.	Mounting of Sound & Light show at Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanyakumari	2003-04	225.00
5.	Construction of 5 tourist cottages at Vivekananda Kendra	2003-04	255.35
6.	Development of Muttom and Thekkurichi beach fronts in Kanyakumari	2003-04	150.00
7.	Development of Chitarai under Jain Tourist Circuit in Kanyakumari	2004-05	23.00
8.	Development of Kanyakumari under destination development	2006-07	258.52